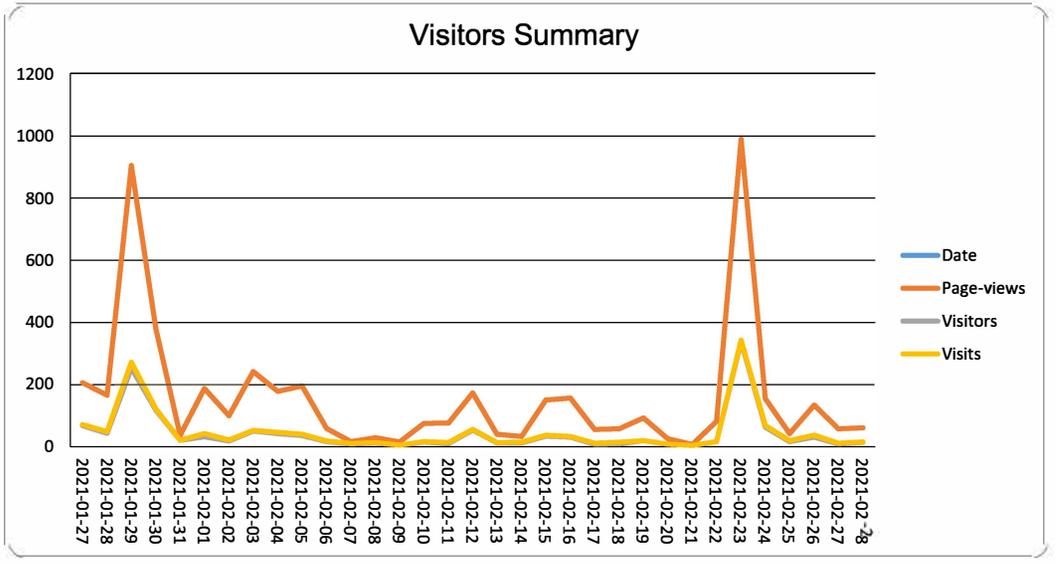


Project Report:	Algonquin-Cary Subarea Plan Virtual Open House	1/27/2021	to	2/28/2021
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Project Highlights

Total Visits	1.53 k
Photo Views	214
Document Downloads	55

ENGAGED PARTICIPANTS	22		
Engaged Actions Performed	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous

Contributed on Forums	3	19	0
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INFORMED PARTICIPANTS	265
Informed Actions Performed	Participants

Visited Multiple Project Pages	197
Viewed a photo	40
Downloaded a document	43
Contributed to a tool (engaged)	22
Visited an FAQ list Page	24

AWARE PARTICIPANTS	1,261
Aware Actions Performed	Participants

Visited at least one Page	1,261
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Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Video Views	Visitors	Contributors		
				Registered	Unverified	No. of comments
Forum Topics	Station 1: Introduction	137	75	1	9	12
Forum Topics	Station 2: Vision	245	48	0	4	5
Forum Topics	Station 3: Subarea 1 - Cary Lake at Rotary Park, Hoffman Park, Damisch Farm, and land along Route 31	164	58	1	4	5
Forum Topics	Station 4: Subarea 2 – Mining area south of Klasen Road and Fox Bluff Conservation Area	90	36	2	2	4
Forum Topics	Station 5: Subarea 3 and Transportation Improvements – Mining areas west of Route 31	90	43	1	4	5

Forum Comments
<p>Station 1: Introduction</p> <p>I still think an outdoor archery range like the one in Blackwell forest preserve would be great. Please consider. Be sure to include restaurant-friendly options that take advantage of the waterfront or other scenic views. Reply: I agree.</p> <p>I would include unique features/structures in the parks or open spaces to be developed that would lend itself to being a photo destination for events. I would also include sculptures which could make it a destination as described above, but could also engage the community of arts to participate and donate sculptures.</p> <p>Rotary park needs more trees and vegetation especially on the west side to help separate the park from route 31. A paved path vs a gravel path would make this park more accessible to more people. Perhaps ice fishing or cross country skiing could also be prompted as year round activities. Reply: A warming house for cross-country skiers and snowshoers would be a nice addition.</p> <p>Uninterrupted bike lanes are needed throughout the entire project, including connecting to downtown Algonquin. Reply: Agree with this comment. Ideally, bike riders could reach the Fox River/MCCD trail from any bike path(s) that are constructed.</p> <p>Disc golf is exploding in the area. It is very easy to play, inexpensive to install, and a great way to showcase open areas! Reply 1: This is what I was going to suggest as well; there are already two new courses, one newly redesigned course at Fel-Pro RRR, and the new course at Hoffman Park (Walnut Hollow). They are both thriving, and the disc golf boom means there is a need for more courses in this area. Reply 2: Excellent idea</p> <p>I am hoping that the western side of rotary park can have restaurants that will allow people to overlook the pond while eating. I agree with the previous poster that trees need to be planted basically throughout the park.</p>
<p>Station 2: Vision</p> <p>More unique (i.e. non-franchise/fast-food chain) restaurants are needed in Cary. Restaurants with outdoor seating facing the park/lake (and possibly a "dog-friendly" eating area) would be a significant plus. There is a significant lack of indoor swimming facilities available to the public in this area. Athletes looking to compete in the sport often have to travel anywhere from 20 to 50mins just to practice with a competitive team. Most swim meets attended by local teams were held out of state at facilities such as the Pleasant Prairie, WI RecPlex, as there are very few Chicago-area pools that can facilitate large gatherings. The Cary-Grove High School doesn't even have a pool. This could be an opportunity to build a facility that would benefit residents and draw athletes from surrounding communities to this area.</p> <p>If you want to connect the communities, it seems as though there should be a bike/walking path actually connecting the two in a meaningful way. Is it possible to identify a local corporate partner to help develop? It seems like an event venue would be an asset. Maybe an outdoor concert area for events? Maybe an indoor venue for events like weddings and celebrations.</p> <p>It would be wonderful to see this space turned back into natural areas for wildlife as a nature/forest preserve with no development or structures. This area has been absolutely destroyed over the past few decades. I agree with orienting new business towards the water, however, lets face it the "Rotary" is really just a glorified pond. It is much too small for boating, but could have a couple of sit down restaurants that overlooked the water. Maybe have a beach for swimming.</p>
<p>Station 3: Subarea 1</p> <p>So far my family and I are really enjoying all of the new additions to Hoffman Park. The disc golf course is great, along with the dog park and bike trail. I'd love to see more trails and family activities added. There appears to be a lot of potential with the Rotary park but at the moment its just a long walking path. The fishing spots are few and require a long hike from the parking lot. And because the path is gravel, its very difficult to ride your bike. I love the idea of a swimming area and mountain bike course, or adding more access areas to the water for fishing or frog catching. And during the summer it is extremely unpleasant because there are no shade, so trees would be awesome.</p>

It's nice that Algonquin is playing along with this soft-pedal vision by CMAP, but their actual behaviors are much different. Two years ago they allowed the 5 acre parcel along the East end of the park to be re-zoned to B-1, which is the highest impact commercial use. The site plan went from showing that land as park to showing it as a strip mall with parking along the border of the Fox Trails subdivision. Two months later LaFarge had Comcast cut through the rear of Fox Trails to lay in large communication trunk lines to this property. A number of residents objected and sought the assistance of the Village of Cary, since all of the proposals for this future land use were recreational when the mining permit was being requested. When this bait-and-switch was highlighted, the Village couldn't care less. To quote the Village Administrator (the Mayor was asked for a meeting and dodged out, sending him instead) "I'd love that land to be in the Village of Cary and if it was I would try to put retail there too." So it's really nice that CMAP is fostering conversation about what could possibly happen with all of this land as a think piece, but in reality CMAP and the Village of Cary have no sway over the commercial land on Klasen Road. They allowed a zoning change which now allows the owner of the land, by right, to put in pretty much anything other than industrial or manufacturing without any further governmental approval. To that end, including these parcels in the planning piece is locking the barn after the horse is already out.

For the Rotary park I would make these suggestions: pave the trail, add a swim/beach area, add a boat house with small boat/kayak rentals. I love the idea of adding some restaurants or ice cream shops along route 31 that back up to the park. Also: please connect all these parks with paved sidewalks/trails to each other and to the nearby subdivisions. Ideally, this park (and the rest of Cary) would be connected all the way to Algonquin with a sidewalk going along route 31 or Cary Algonquin road.

The gravel path around Cary Lake should be paved to accommodate those who use wheelchairs or walking aids. A paved path would also benefit families with strollers or wagons who want to picnic in the area. I would also suggest a few small shelters with a picnic table and/or benches around the lake for added protection of sun/rain.

The area is linear, like route 31, and the fox river, and the feature attractions will likewise be linearly arranged. There are lots of things you can do here. In addition to a swimming beach and amphitheatre, you could add a skate park (fairly cheap), a chess pavilion (very cheap), a sculpture park (local artists?), a beer garden, a pier for a small riverboat, and a wishing fountain. But there are two big problems. Accessing all these places and finding parking. You can try to fix this by adding a tramway or trolley that travels north south, following the linear arrangement of its features. The people of Algonquin and Cary can walk to the tramway or trolley and access whatever they want. Or you could add a pier at each end of the fox river to turn the small riverboat into a kind of river bus/water taxi.

Station 4: Subarea 2

Fox Bluff is down the street from my home and my family and I visit there all the time. It's pretty much always empty which I'm not complaining about but is proof that it's not a well known spot (the entry is hidden off Cary-Algonquin Road). The paved trail to the river is great for fishing and the trails through the woods are excellent for exploring. My kids love the streams and waterfalls. But there is still so much space that is not utilized, from the downhill area north of the parking lot (the hill is great to run up) to the shoreline of the Fox, to old Camp Algonquin. Expanding the trails and providing more access to the river would be great along with adding campsites (similar to the campsite at the Hollows).

These ideas are all great. I would just add that a swim beach should be something to consider. I especially love the possibility of restaurants along route 31 that would back up to the park. Other things that our town really needs and could possibly go here or somewhere in this plan would be new baseball fields, and an indoor sports facility that would have soccer/football fields, and an indoor pool.

Can they include a public boat launch to the fox river for local residents as well as restaurants

Would love to see Algonquin have a lake analogous to Crystal Lake's Three Oaks with primarily non-motorized boating (kayaking, canoeing, sailing, paddle boarding, wind or kite surfing) and a much larger area available for swimming. (Three Oaks swim area is way too small. It would be great if people could be allowed to actually swim across the lake and back.). The area should be accessible by safe bike lanes from Algonquin and Cary. Mitigation plans should be in place to keep the lake clean and relatively free of algae. For example, the potential plans for residential and commercial units near the lake needs to carefully manage runoff that could end up in the lake.

Station 5: Subarea 3 and Transportation Improvements

Love all these ideas, especially the idea of a pedestrian bridge going over the Fox River, and connecting Cary to the Prairie Trail! Other things that our town really needs and could possibly go here or somewhere in this plan would be new baseball fields, and an indoor sports facility that would have soccer/football fields, and an indoor pool.

Build the northern Algonquin bypass.
Reply: Great idea

It would be great if this plan included building a modern Park District Recreation Building to attract younger families to move into the area. Building houses and trails is not everything. Algonquin needs a decent Park District for its residents. For now, the closest park district is in Huntley or Crystal Lake, with non-resident rates.

I don't think there is a need for another bridge over the Fox River at that location. It would cause a high density of traffic through a conservation area, and is only 5 minutes from either rt 62 or rt 14.

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY					
DOCUMENTS	2	PHOTOS	16	FAQS	1

Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Downloads/Views
Document	DRAFT Algonquin-Cary Subarea Plan	31	35
Document	Community Engagement Summary	16	20
Photo	Map of planning area	31	32
Photo	Transportation plan	23	25
Photo	Land Use and Development plan	23	24
Photo	Open Space and Environment plan	21	22
Photo	Cary Lake at Rotary Park design concept	13	15
Photo	Water and Sewer Infrastructure plan	13	14
Photo	Conceptual illustration of possible development along Route 31	11	12
Photo	Conceptual illustration of planned amenities at Cary Lake at Rotary Park	10	10
Photo	Paths and Trails plan	10	11
Photo	Conceptual illustration of Cary Lake at Rotary Park and surrounding area	9	9
Photo	Gravel mining infrastructure	8	8
Photo	Cary Lake at Rotary Park	7	7
Photo	Route 31 and Virginia Road intersection	7	7
Photo	Fox Bluff trail	6	6
Photo	Route 31 frontage near Hoffman Park	6	6
Photo	View of Site # 3 from Cary Lake	6	6
FAQ	faqs	24	24